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PLIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: **Eduardo J.** §
Baralt and Russell Bak §
Serial No.: **09/678,413** §
Filed: **October 2, 2000** §
For: **Oligomerization of Alpha** §
Olefins in the Presence of §
Carboxylic Acids §

Group Art Unit: **1764**Examiner: **T. Nguyen**Attorney Docket: **09/678,413 US**AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The comments herein are responsive to the Office Action mailed August 14, 2001.

REMARKS

§ 102 Rejection of claims 1-3, 5-9 over U.S. 5,191,140 to Akatsu et al.

Claims 1-3, 5-9 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S.

Patent No. 5,191,140 to Akatsu et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed and is withdrawn. The withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

A characteristic feature of the process described in the Akatsu et al. patent is the use of the combination of "water and/or an alcohol and a carboxylic acid anhydride" in the polymerization of olefins in the presence of a boron trifluoride catalyst. See column 2, lines 54-59. Nowhere is there a disclosure in the Akatsu et al. patent that the co-catalyst used is a carboxylic acid. Rather, the co-catalyst is a "carboxylic acid anhydride". This is a significant distinction in that Applicant's claimed invention uses a carboxylic acid containing from 2 to

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